

Tyrannasorus rex

Tyrannasorus rex was a species of beetle known to exist in the Miocene epoch and the sole member of the monotypic genus ***Tyrannasorus***. A fossilized example scarabaeoid was found embedded in the amber resin of *Hymenaea protera* in the Dominican Republic. The species was described by Brett C. Ratcliffe and Federico Carlos Ocampo in 2001.^[1]

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Holotype

The observed specimen is assumed to be female based on similarities to the female specimens of the genus *Apalonychus*. She was trapped in the resin produced by *Hymenaea protera*, now also extinct. The amber was previously dated to Oligocene or Eocene, but these datings are since considered incorrect, and it is accepted that the amber was formed between late Early Miocene and Middle Miocene (15–20 million years ago). The amber came from Dominican Republic, probably from the mountain range north of Santiago de los Caballeros. It is too dark for ventral characteristics of the insect's body to be observed.^[1]

Description

Unlike other hybosorids from the West Indies, whose antennae are 10-segmented, *Tyrannasorus rex* had nine-segmented antennae. The species is most similar to the genera *Coilodes* and *Apalonychus*; their shared characteristics include convex and not quite spherical body and reddish-brown colour. The most prominent difference between *Coilodes* and *Tyrannasorus* is in the shape of antennal club, which is slightly concave in *Tyrannasorus* but cup-shaped in *Coilodes*. Furthermore, the former's labrum is wider than the latter's and, unlike the former's, the anterior margin of the latter's pronotum is sinuate. Species of the genus *Apalonychus* have a much more elongated club of the antenna compared to *Tyrannasorus* and, unlike *Tyrannasorus*, eyes of the specimen are subglose and easily visible in dorsal view. Their labrum is also wider than that of *Tyrannasorus* and the anterior margin of their pronotum is not sinuate. As with other insects, the beetle's six legs consisted of a pair of prolegs, a pair of middle legs and a pair of posterior legs. The insect's elytra have a smooth surface.^[1]

Etymology

<i>Tyrannasorus rex</i>
Scientific classification 
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Coleoptera
Family: Hybosoridae
Genus: † <i>Tyrannasorus</i> <div>Ratcliffe & Ocampo, 2001</div>
Species: † <i>T. rex</i>
Binomial name
<div>†<i>Tyrannasorus rex</i></div> <div>Ratcliffe & Ocampo, 2001</div>

It was named after *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the dinosaur, although its discoverers provide an etymology for the name based on the word *Hybosorus*, the genus that formed the basis for the subfamily, known as Hybosoridae, to which the species belongs. The stem of the generic name is derived from the Latin *tyrannus*, meaning "master" or "tyrannical", while the suffix *-sorus* means "pile" or "hump" in Latin. The name, "tyrannical hump", ultimately refers to the mound of sap in which the observed specimen was fatally trapped.^{[1][2]}

References

1. Ratcliffe, Brett C.; Ocampo, Federico Carlos (2001). "*Tyrannasorus rex* Ratcliffe and Ocampo, a New Genus and Species of Miocene Hybosorid in Amber from the Dominican Republic (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Hybosoridae)" (<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/entomologypapers/46/>). *The Coleopterists Bulletin*. **55** (3): 351–355. doi:10.1649/0010-065X(2001)055[0351:TRRAOA]2.0.CO;2 (<https://doi.org/10.1649%2F0010-065X%282001%29055%5B0351%3ATRRAOA%5D2.0.CO%3B2>). JSTOR 4009640 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4009640>).
 2. Acorn, John (2007). *Deep Alberta: Fossil Facts and Dinosaur Digs* (<https://archive.org/details/deepalbertafossi00acor>). University of Alberta. pp. . ISBN 978-0-88864-481-7.
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